Strengthening security measures for tackling sea piracy

1736. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after launching a successful strike against pirates in the Gulf of Aden, Navy is set to commission its force in the region by deploying more warships and aircrafts;

(b) whether Navy has also been granted the right of hot pursuit to take up on pirate vessels in Somali waters;

(c) whether Coasts Guards form 10 nations also got licence on tackling antipiracy; and

(d) if so,the concrete measures and steps Government proposes to take to improve the Coast Guard in the Sea shore?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Government has deployed an Indian Naval warship in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrols. The level of force would depend on review to be made from time to time, and depending upon the progress of international efforts in this regard.

(b) India has been notified as a cooperating State by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and ships of the Indian Navy are authorized to enter the territorial waters of Somalia to prevent acts of piracy.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which India is also a signatory, all nations exercise jurisdiction over pirates outside the jurisdiction of any State on the high seas. In the Indian waters, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the nodal agency for tackling piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea. Improvement is an ongoing process.

Harassment of women officers in armed forces

1737. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sexual harassment is increasingly becoming a problem in the highly disciplined armed forces with over 12 such cases since January, 2004;

(b) whether a women army officer has accused a Major General of 'misconduct' in the strategically located Leh area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.